



**Town Recreational Shellfishing Crier
December 28, 2020**

1. 2021 Recreational Shellfishing Permits Needed to Harvest Shellfish on Jan. 1, 2021

Due to the coronavirus, all shellfishing permits are being sold either online or by mail this year. Click [here](#) to buy it online. Online sales are credit card only. PLEASE NOTE: There will be a two-business day turn-around time, so please plan ahead. Once approved, permits purchased online will be put in a plastic tub to the right of the back door to Town Hall. Please remember to pick your permit up. Many people seem to have forgotten to do that and the box is getting full. Thank you!

If you apply by mail, please download the application [here](#) and enclose your check made out to the Town of Wellfleet and a self-addressed stamped envelope so that we can mail it back to you. Send all to Jeanne MacLauchlan, Principal Clerk, Town of Wellfleet, 300 Main St., Wellfleet, MA 02667.

Jeanne will also be at our offices at the pier this Wednesday, December 30, from noon – 2 p.m. and can issue your permit in person.

Permits are valid January 1 – December 31, 2021. Beginning January 1, 2012, you will not be able to shellfish without a 2021 permit. Please call the Shellfish Department at 508-349-0325 or email Jeanne.maclauchlan@wellfleet-ma.gov with any questions or for assistance.

We will be including an educational brochure with all permits this year. You are responsible for using measuring devices when you go shellfishing. We are happy to provide free 3-inch PVC pipe rings at each entrance to the Indian Neck recreational shellfishing area, at the Old Pier Rd. entrance to Chipman's Cove and at our office on the pier.

2. Wellfleet Shellfishermen's Farmers Market

The Shellfish Department has launched a shellfishermen's market in partnership with the [Wellfleet Shellfishermen's Association](#) and [Holbrook Oyster](#) in order to help shellfishermen impacted by the crash of their normal restaurant markets due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. To accommodate New Year's Eve/Day shoppers, the next [Wellfleet Shellfishermen's Farmers Market](#) will take place this Wed., January 30, from noon to 2 p.m. at the bandstand at the pier. Starting Sat., January 9, the market will return to Saturdays between noon and 2 p.m. at the bandstand at the pier through May 1. Please help us spread the word and get people to turn out to support our local shellfishing families during these tough times.

3. Buy-Back Program from Oyster Farmers Means Plenty of Oysters on Indian Neck

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department received a \$10,000 matching grant as part of the Sea Grant COVID-19 Related Rapid Response Municipal Propagation program, implemented by Woods Hole Sea Grant /Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. The Shellfish Advisory Board, Selectboard and Annual Town Meeting approved the department to spend \$10,000 from its Revolving Fund for Propagation for this effort, and we are thrilled that the County matched it dollar for dollar.

Recreational shellfishing pressure in Wellfleet has increased exponentially since the onset of COVID-19. Due to COVID-19, oyster markets have crashed, leaving farmers with an excess of sellable product on their farms. This town propagation initiative addresses both of these issues for a win-win for both groups, and the Town.

The department has been working with oyster farmers over the past few weeks to buy more than 1,000 legal-sized oysters from close to 40 of them, which put \$500 in their pockets before the end of the year. We have been diligently distributing them at the Indian Neck Recreational Only Area for all of you to harvest.

We'd very much appreciate it if you could email us with your oyster harvests (full basket, half basket, quarter basket, etc.) from the Indian Neck Rec Only Area starting December 8, 2020 and through May 31, 2021 for our grant report. Of course, we patrol Indian Neck every day, but during this time period, the entire harbor is open to recreational shellfishing, so we are not always at Indian Neck when you are coming off with your catch. Send to Deputy Shellfish Constable Chris Manulla at chris.manulla@wellfleet-ma.gov with the SUBJECT: REC OYSTER HARVEST. Thank you very much and buon appetito!

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 508-349-0325 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla
Deputy Shellfish Constable